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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 20, 1980

E-359

Dear Mr. Cotter:

Thank you for your letter of September 2 concerning the fate of Raoul Wallenberg.

The U.S. government has been interested in the Wallenberg case since it first came to light at the end of World War II. We have sought a full and adequate response about Mr. Wallenberg's fate from the Soviet Government a number of times, most recently in December 1979. That initiative resulted in a formal written reply from the Soviets in February 1980 reaffirming their claim that Mr. Wallenberg died in 1947. They also stated that they had informed the Swedish Government directly of their latest findings and suggested that they would have no further information on this matter in the future. Given the current state of U.S. - U.S.S.R. relations and the tone of the February reply, we doubt the Soviets would be responsive to further bilateral inquiries about Mr. Wallenberg.

We have also attempted to gain information in other ways. U.S. officials conducted extensive interviews with the five Soviet dissidents exchanged for two Soviet spies in April 1979. None of the five ex-prisoners could confirm or lend credence to rumors that Mr. Wallenberg is still alive. We are continuing to question Soviet emigres on this matter.

As Mr. Wallenberg is a Swedish citizen, we have cooperated with the Swedish government in past attempts to shed light on his fate. We will continue to support Swedish efforts.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Derian
Assistant Secretary for Human
Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

The Honorable
William R. Cotter,
House of Representatives.

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